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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

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Attorney Docket No. 3863 P 003

JUN 5 2001

Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Utility Patent Application Of:

Thomas H. Tapio

Application No. 09/678,428

Filed: October 2, 2000

For: System and Method For Sharing of Expert Knowledge

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) Group Art Unit: 2177

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) Examiner:

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Attn: Box Fee Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington D.C., 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified Application. Applicant is a small entity. A Statement was already filed. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in these fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

The fee for the Amendment has been calculated as shown below:

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than Small Entity	
				Rate	Additional Fee	Rate	Additional Fee
Total	37	- 20	= 17	x \$ 9	\$153	x \$ 18	\$*
Independent	7	- 3	= 4	x \$ 40	\$160	x \$ 80	\$*
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims				x \$135	\$0	x \$270	\$0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE							\$313.00

X Check No. 8498 in the amount of \$313.00 is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

X Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for the presentation of extra Claims.

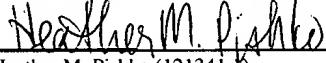
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 25, 2001

By: 
James P. Muraff, Reg. No. 39,785
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Attorneys for Applicant

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as U.S. first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Fee Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 25, 2001.

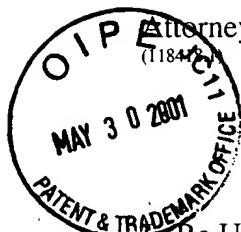

Heather M. Pishko (121341.1)



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H 44
A. Hayes
7/18/02

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Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following Claims:

6. A method of creating a learning software application for identifying a solution for a topic from a database of topical knowledge, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of input fields for receiving input data, the input data comprising interface parameters, topics, questions, answers, rules, and solutions;

inputting at least one interface parameter into a first input field to define parameters associated with an interface screen;

inputting at least one topic into a second input field, wherein the at least one topic is linked to the at least one interface screen;

inputting a first question into a third field, wherein the first question corresponds to the at least one topic;

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